F
1785
J96

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
00017702129

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

Chap. F1785

Shelf .J96

PRESENTED BY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Mr. Longbridge from Mr. Speer

FACTS ABOUT CUBA.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE

NEW YORK CUBAN JUNTA.

Junta cubana de Nueva York

NEW YORK:
SUN JOB PRINTING OFFICE, PRINTING-HOUSE SQUARE.
1870.

-9.5

F1785
.J96

3-25487 revised

FACTS ABOUT CUBA.

I.

Situation.—Cuba is the largest and most fertile of the West Indies; it is situated between 19° 49′ and 23° 13′ North latitude, and 74° 6′ and 89° 59′ West longitude from Greenwich.

Area.—The Island, on a straight line from East to West, is about six hundred geographical miles long; in width from North to South, varies from 21 to 135 miles.

Territorial Division.—The Island was divided by the Spanish Government into three large departments: the Western, Central, and Eastern. These departments were subdivided into 32 districts or jurisdictions, and the latter into *partidos*, of which there were 166 in all. Notwithstanding this, the people are accustomed to denominate the territories into which they consider the Island divided, as follows: *Vuelta Abajo*, the portion embraced from the meridian of Havana to Cape San Antonio, the western extremity of the Island; *Vuelta Arriba*, from the meridian of Havana toward the East as far as Cienfuegos; *Las Cinco Villas*, from the meridian of Cienfuegos to that of Sancti-Spiritus; *Tierra Adentro*, from that of Sancti-Spiritus to that of Holguin, toward the East.

Population.—According to the official census of 1862:

WHITES.			
Natives of Spain and of the Canary Islands	115,114		
Natives of Cuba	602,145		
Natives of the So. American Republics and Brazil	4,203		
Foreigners, natives of different States of Europe	4,999		
North Americans	2,496		
		792,951	=53.67 p. c.
COLORED.			
Free	225,938		
Slaves	368,550		
		594,488	=43.67 p. c.
Chinamen and Indians from Yucatan		34,973	= 2.66 p. c.
Total		1,359,238	100

WEALTH.—There were in Cuba in 1862:

		Value.
Sugar plantations	1,425	$222,035,724
Coffee plantations	996	24,547,330
Stock breeding farms	2,487	121,72,556
Grazing farms	5,748	46,250,189
Small farms, &c	22,496	57,080,152
Tobacco plantations	9,481	18,468,562
Total value of improved producing land		$380,554,523
Total value of urban real estate		170,400,833
Total amount of commercial and industrial pursuits		773,846,496
Total		$1,324,801,852

The value of agricultural productions for the same year amounted, according to official reports, to:

Sugar, molasses, and rum	$62,127,666
Coffee	2,595,396
Tobacco	15,281,300
Rice	1,747,474
Wax	581,570
Corn	5,449,310
Honey	1,189,718
Bananas	6,915,535
Feed for horses	3,976,726
Sundry productions	24,357,628
Cattle	5,285,200
Total	$129,510,518

Commerce.—We have no sufficiently late reports to show accurately the amount of the imports and exports. The former amounted in the year 1859 to $43,465,679, and the latter to $57,455,185. Out of these amounts the United States represented $12,192,369 imports and $24,076,853 exports. Taking into consideration the constant progress which the trade of the Island has made during the last ten years, it may confidently be stated that the increase has been 50 per cent. up to the breaking out of the revolution, and, therefore, we will say that the amount

of imports was then.....	$65,198,518	
And the amount of exports.....	86,182,777	
		$151,381,295
Of which the United States represented, for imports.....	$18,288,553	
And for exports.....	36,115,279	
		$54,404,832

Therefore, the United States take 36 per cent. of the total amount of the commerce of Cuba.

The main articles imported into Cuba from the United States are provisions, timber, hardware, machinery, and agricultural tools. Those exported from Cuba to the United States are sugar, molasses, rum, tobacco, cigars, honey, and wax.

Public Revenues.—The amount of taxes collected in 1866 by the Spanish Government was $26,806,382. As we have no later official reports, we estimate that, with the new taxes imposed in 1867, the public revenues in 1868 must have amounted to $35,000,0000. About $12,000,000 of this amount is derived from the Custom House, $2,000,000 from the government lottery, $11,000,000 from taxes upon the productions of the soil, and the balance from taxes on trade and other sources. To this amount there can be added with all certainty from $15,000,000 to $20,000,000 more, which the people pay in fraudulent exactions and contributions of all kinds.

The Government of Madrid has been receiving for the last ten

years, from Cuba, from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000 annually, called the *ultra-marine surplus;* and besides, it has made Cuba pay the expenses of the Penitentiary of Fernando Po, off the coast of Africa, which costs not less than $200,000 a year. Cuba also paid the expenses incurred by the Mexican expedition in 1863, which amounted to $10,000,000, and also paid the expenses of the war with St. Domingo, which amounted to about $22,000,000.

It is not to be supposed, from the word *surplus* being applied to the amount of money taken by the Madrid Government from Cuba, that it is a surplus remaining after all the wants of a civilized people are attended to. Far from this being true, we learn from the official reports published by the Spanish Government, that in 1862 only $84,233 were devoted to public schools, and in 1866 only $194,571 were spent in public works, and that to invest this small amount it was necessary to pay to employees $106,249. The few public schools which are scattered through the country are generally supported by the local city councils. The Government has ordered most of them to be closed since the breaking out of the war.

None of the railroads on the Island have received any assistance from the Government. Neither hospitals nor asylums for the poor have been established, and on the contrary the Government has appropriated to itself different sums donated by private citizens for that purpose. Among a host of other instances, this was done with a donation of $100,000 made by Donna Maria Josefa Santa Cruz, to found a hospital, and a like sum raised from a fair got up by Don Tomas Reina, the profits to be appropriated to the building of an asylum for the poor. No one knows what has become of these funds since the Government took possession of them.

Government.—The government of Spain in Cuba has always been an absolute military despotism, personified in the Captain-General of the Island, who, from the year 1825, has been expressly invested with the powers of the governor of a besieged town,

and who in reality has exercised an unlimited dictatorship more or less arbitrary, according to the temper of the functionary who has filled this office. Notwithstanding this, the Island had always been regarded as an integral portion of the Spanish Monarchy, and therefore had undergone the same political vicissitudes as the mother country, electing and sending its representatives to the Congress of the Nation, when any existed, till 1837, when the representatives legally elected by Cuba and Porto Rico were excluded from the Constitutent Cortes, under pretext that the Colonies were to be governed by *special laws*. From that time the system of spoliation grew stronger in Cuba, and Spain from day to day has been enlarging it. The Captain-Generals transformed themselves into irresponsible dictators. Their inferiors followed their examples, neglecting their duty to make money at all hazard. The African slave trade was encouraged, notwithstanding formal treaties with Great Britain, and a political excuse was found for it under the name of a *counter-balancing of races*, in order to overawe the creoles with the increasing number of negroes, when in reality the only object of the Spaniards was to enrich themselves with the large profits arising from that inhuman traffic. The press was enslaved to the most rigid and capricious censorship.

The Cubans lost all participation in public affairs. At every step they were terrified with the epithet of *bad Spaniards*, or traitors, and under pretense of supposed conspiracies, they were arbitrarily incarcerated, exiled, and put to death.

The Government drew a dividing line between the peninsular Spaniards and the natives of Cuba. The latter were excluded from all public employments; driven from all profitable occupations, in order to make room for Europeans; molested in the enjoyment of their property, and obliged in order to obtain a precarious personal security, constantly to make presents and pay black-mail to the agents of the Government.

Army and Navy.—In the month of October, 1868, Spain had

in Cuba twelve regiments of infantry, one corps of engineers, one of artillery, two of cavalry, one section of civil guards, one regiment of armed firemen, one regiment of prison guards, two companies to do duty in the military hospital, and five regiments of infantry and cavalry militia.

These forces amounted in all:

Regular troops of all arms, including officers	14,300
Civil guard	640
Prison guard	120
Armed firemen	1,000
Infantry and calvary militia	3,400
Soldiers who had served their time, but were kept in service	300
	19,760

in which are included the garrisons of the forts, of the military hospitals, etc. In fact, out of these troops, only 10,000 regulars could take the field. This regular force was distributed as follows: 1,500 in the Eastern Department, 3,000 in the Central, and the balance in the Western.

Their armament was first-class, although not all their arms were of the latest styles, for they had only received at that time 6,000 Remington rifles; besides, there was a large supply of arms, ammunition, and war material.

There were in Cuban waters at this time:

Steam frigate	Gerona, wood screw propeller	51	guns.
" "	Carmen, " " "	40	"
Second class steamer	Blanco Garay	6	"
" "	Ulloa	6	"
Third class "	Bazan	3	"
" "	Neptune	2	"
" "	Venadito	2	"
" "	Don Juan de Austria	1	"
" "	Guadalquivir	2	"
Screw steamer, schooner rigged,	Africa	3	"
" "	Huelva	3	"
" "	Andaluza	3	"
" "	Guardiana	3	"
" "	Isabel Francisca	3	"
Total, 14 men-of-war, with		128	guns.

II.

THE REVOLUTION.

In 1846 the annexation movement commenced, which produced the expedition and death of Narciso Lopez, in 1850 and 1851; the more recent armaments under General Quitman and others; and finally, in 1855, the imprisonment and death of Ramon Pinto, with the banishment of numerous patriots. These attempts, though unsuccessful, caused, however, some impression on the Madrid Government, who at last saw the necessity of softening, in some degree, the despotic rule under which the colonies were held, and began to quiet them with promises of concessions.

A party sprang up at that time, which was called the Reformist Party; and although it was not in consonance with the feelings of many of the creoles, and although they had very little faith in the sincerity of the Spanish Government, and still less in that of its agents in Cuba, they did all in their power, consistently with their dignity, to come to a settlement which might recognize and assure the rights of the colony without impairing the interests of the nation; and after great and protracted efforts they succeeded, in 1866, in obtaining the institution of an inquiry in Madrid, the object of which was to consider and determine upon the political, economical, and administrative reforms which were required by Cuba and Porto Rico. The Commissioners elected by the City Councils of Cuba and Porto Rico fulfilled their task honorably, demanding political liberties under the form of colonial self-government, free trade, and the abolition of slavery; but they very soon discovered that they had been imposed upon.

The only reform which the Government decreed for Cuba was

a new system of taxation a good deal more oppressive than the one they had before. The Government uttered the impudent falsehood of saying that the new system originated with the Commissioners. As for the rest, if any change took place on the Island, it was to renew and enlarge the unlimited power of the Captain-General; to suspend the civil courts of justice, in order to establish courts-martial; to decree the banishment of hundreds of peaceful citizens, without trial, and to increase the flocks of corrupt officials who preyed on the vitals of the country.

Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, an able lawyer and wealthy planter of Bayamo, in the Eastern Department, raised the standard of independence on his estate, Demajagua, in the jurisdiction of Manzanillo, at a short distance from the town of Yara, of which he immediately took possession, on the 10th of October, 1868. One hundred and forty-seven men, without arms, except forty-five fowling pieces, four rifles, and a few pistols and machetes (a long sword), were all the force that Cespedes controlled in taking this daring step. On the 12th he already had 4,000 men, but indifferently armed; toward the end of the month his army numbered 9,700, and on the 8th of November, 12,000.

On the 13th of October the patriots obtained their first triumph over the Spaniards, defeating them at Yara, Baire and Jiguani. The latter is an important town, and was captured by Donato Marmol, with many prisoners, among them the governor of the town. On the 15th they laid siege to Bayamo, a city of 10,000 inhabitants, and on the 18th took possession of the city, and Cespedes established his government there. On the 8th of November, after having sustained various encounters around Tunas and Baire, and forced Colonel Demetrio Quiros, who had marched against them from Santiago de Cuba, to retreat with great loss, the patriots had advanced to within a mile of that city, the capital of the Eastern Department, cutting off the aqueduct, and bringing it to great distress. On the 23d they were masters of the towns of Caney and Cobre, where they re-

mained for more than a month, until it became necessary to concentrate all their forces to oppose General Valmaseda, who with a large army was marching on Bayamo.

On the 28th of October the jurisdiction of Holguin rose in arms. On the 4th of November that of Camaguey imitated their example, and the patriots captured a train with arms and ammunition landed at Nuevitas, taking prisoners the soldiers who guarded it. Valmaseda, on learning the formidable proportions which the revolution had taken in the Central Department, then passed by sea from Manzanillo to Vertientes and from Vertientes to Puerto Principe; but finding his position in that city untenable, took refuge in Nuevitas. From thence toward the end of December he commenced his march in the direction of Bayamo, which he reached on the 16th of January, finding it a heap of ruins; for Cespedes, unprovided with the means of resisting a siege led by forces accompanied by artillery, had set fire to the whole city with the unanimous consent of its inhabitants.

The insurrection then presented such a formidable attitude, notwithstanding the evacuation of Bayamo, that Captain-Gen. Don Domingo Dulce thought it prudent to attempt pacification by conciliatory means, and sent two commissioners with letters to Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, the first of which wrote a communication to the Cuban leader on the 19th of January, requesting an interview. Cespedes agreed to this, expressing at the same time his conviction that all efforts to secure a compromise would be fruitless, the patriots being resolved to conquer their independence. This interview never took place on account of the death of the Cuban leader Augustus Arango, who was murdered by the Spanish volunteers on entering Puerto Principe, notwithstanding that he was at the time the bearer of a safe-conduct issued by the Spanish Governor of Manzanillo, and was entering the town for the very purpose of carrying on those negotiations.

The second commissioner was not more fortunate in his attempt.

He delivered to Cespedes a letter from General Dulce, dated at Havana, on the 14th of January, in which the General expressed himself as desirous of the termination of the war that was destroying all the elements of wealth of that favored country ; but Cespedes made answer that he had at that moment heard of the murder of Augustus Arango, and that no Cuban would enter into further conference with the Spanish Government.

On the 9th of February, 1869, the whole of the district called Las Villas rose in arms under the direction of General Federico Cavada, a colonel in the United States volunteer service during the Southern rebellion.

A brief sketch of some of the actions which since then have taken place will not be devoid of interest.

April 17.—Colonel Francisco Rubalcava (Cuban) reports to the President of the Republic, that he attacked a convoy proceeding from Manati to Las Tunas, killing 23 men, taking 97 prisoners, among them 7 officers, besides 115 rifles and muskets, a field-piece, and other arms.

May 11.—An expedition, composed of 205 men, under the command of Francisco Javier Cisneros, accompanied by General Thomas Jordan, landed in the bay of Nipe. One hundred and fifty of the country people immediately joined them, and, though attacked by a Spanish force, the Cubans succeeded in repulsing them, and saving the large quantity of arms and other supplies they carried with them, until they were re-inforced by a body of 2,000 men.

June 6.—The Commander-in-Chief, Manuel Quesada, defeated the Spanish troops, numbering 600 men, who were marching to Las Tunas escorting a convoy, of which he captured four wagons laden with provisions and ammunition, together with important papers.

June 21.—The same General reports to the Secretary of War, Francisco V. Aguilera, having marched from Péñon, at the head of 300 men—infantry and cavalry—with which he attacked

and destroyed the enemy's camp, between Sabana Nueva and Camaguey, killing 20 men, and taking one captain, two lieutenants, two ensigns, two sergeants, a corporal, and 72 soldiers, prisoners. Besides this, he captured all the arms, horses, and equipments found in the camp.

July 20.—The Cubans, under General Ignacio Agramonte, commenced to bombard Puerto Principe, capital of Camaguey. Their artillery, commanded by Major Beauvilliers, fired 17 grenades into the town, causing much damage to the public buildings. Major Cantú, with 80 horsemen, took possession of the bridge of Santa Cruz, and defended it against the enemy, repulsing them with loss. Colonel Bobadilla, on the side of the Plaza de la Caridad, entered the city, took a large amount of provisions and other stores, and having accomplished the object of the assault by rescuing a considerable number of families, the Cubans retired in good order.

August 16.—General Quesada, at the head of 1,200 men, with a piece of ordnance, attacked the town of Las Tunas, which was garrisoned by 600 to 700 Spanish soldiers, and defended by strong intrenchments and artillery. The attack was to have taken place at three o'clock in the morning, at four points at once; but a detachment having sallied from the town on the previous night, to procure provisions, met the Cubans under Colonel Cornelio Diaz, who were advancing from the west, and retreated. This detachment then fell upon Cuban General Vicente Garcia, who was waiting for the signal to attack, and hearing the enemy, opened fire, causing them to take refuge in the town, which was thereby alarmed. The firing was heard by Cuban Colonels Bernabé Varona and Tomás Mendoza, who were posted respectively in the north and south, and, without waiting for any orders, they marched on the town.

The Spaniards were intrenched behind the outer houses and earthworks, and, making use of their artillery, sought to keep the Cubans at bay; but the latter dislodged them, and drove

them into the plaza, the approaches to which were fortified. One hundred and fifty Spaniards shut themselves up in the barracks; but the Cubans took this building at ten o'clock in the morning, and the Spaniards, before abandoning it, put to death several political prisoners who were there detained, and fled to the plaza, leaving behind them seventeen dead bodies, more than fifty muskets, and a great quantity of ammunition and accoutrements. The Cubans then directed their fire against the steeple of the church, where some pieces of artillery had been mounted, and succeeded in dismantling this building and silencing the battery. There was then no further obstacle toward gaining possession of the whole town but the works of the plaza, which were defended by deep ditches, and could not be taken in front; so the patriots resolved to assail them in flank, by breaking through the walls of the intervening houses. At this moment, when the breach was nearly finished, and about two o'clock in the afternoon, General Quesada was informed that a body of eight hundred Spaniards was approaching from Maniabon, and he then retired in good order, without being pursued by the enemy. During the fight a part of the Cubans devoted themselves to carrying off a number of families who had been suffering there under Spanish cruelty, leaving only a few inhabitants, among whom were the wives of Generals Garcia and Rubalcava, who were detained within the fortification.

In the Military Hospital, and in the houses of several officers, the patriots found and took more than two hundred arms, many cartridge boxes, and eleven flags, besides 27 prisoners. The Cubans lost 26 killed and 82 wounded; the Spaniards confess to a loss of 102 men.

November 21.—The camp and fort of San José, defended by the Barcelona Chasseurs, under the command of Colonel José Saenz de Tejada, was attacked by the Cubans, who were led by Colonel Bernabé Varona, with such success that they had already summoned the fort to surrender, when two Spanish col-

umns from Las Minas and San Antonio came up, obliging the assailants to retreat.

This fort is one of the line formed around Puerto Principe, for its defense. The others are Forts Rodas and Voluntario; the latter is in the form of a half-star with three points, three guns, good ditches, stone walls and embankments, wells, and subterraneous stores for ammunition. All these have been built since the commencement of the war.

The Spaniards have thrown up another triple line of fortifications in the territory of Las Villas, traversing the Island from north to south. In the first, which is the strongest, are Moron, Las Piedras, Sanchez, Ciego de Avila, Pitajones and Jucaro; in the second, Ranchuelo, Lazaro, Jicotéa, Guayacanes, and La Ceiba; in the third, Chambas, Guadalupe, Marroquin, Rio Grande, and Limones. Each one of these has a good garrison, and it is hoped by their aid to bar the passage of the Cubans.—(*Diario de la Marina*, December 8.)

November 22.—The Cubans recovered their old positions on Mogote, causing the forces sent out from Santiago de Cuba, by Count Valmaseda, to retreat with great loss. Mogote is a mountain at the foot of which runs the road from Manzanillo to Bayamo, communications between the places having been thus cut off.

III.

Spanish Re-inforcements.—Since the commencement of the war, Spain has sent out to Cuba, according to the statement made in the Cortes, on the 30th of November last, by Gen. Prim, 40,000 men, besides which nine battalions and about thirty companies, numbering in all about 12,000 men, have been raised on the island and sent to the seat of war.

The Spanish volunteers are well organized, drilled, and equipped with the best arms purchased in the United States; but they are entirely confined to the cities, and do not take any part in the fighting.

The navy, which, as we have before stated, was composed in October, 1868, of 14 vessels..... 128 guns, has been afterward re-inforced with the following:

IRON CLADS.

Victoria	27	„
Zaragoza	21	„

WOODEN FIRST CLASS STEAMERS.

Almanza	48	„
Lealtad	37	„

SECOND CLASS.

Cadiz	17	„
Fernando El Católico	18	„
Isabel La Católica	16	„
Pizarro	6	„
Balboa	6	„
Hernan Cortés	6	„

THIRD CLASS.

Churruca	2	„

STEAM SCHOONERS.

Juanita	3	guns.
Sirena	3	"
Favorita	3	"
Condor	2	"

GUN-BOATS.

Louisa	1	"
Gitano	1	"
Figaro	1	"
Union	1	"
Maria	1	"
Indio	1	"

ARMED MERCHANT STEAMERS.

Moctezuma	4	"
Marsella	4	"
Barcelona	4	"
Gorrion	2	"
Concha	1	"
Matanzas	1	"
Pinero	5	"
Sagüa	2	"
Cardenás	4	"
Comercio	4	"
Triunfo	4	"
Pelayo	4	"
Damují	2	"

SAILING GUN-BOATS.

Delta	1	"
Omega	1	"

TRANSPORT.

San Quintin	4	"

SCHOOL-SHIP.

Pinta	6	"
Total, 52 vessels, with	402	guns,

besides the 30 gun-boats armed with one large Parrot gun each, lately built in the United States.

FORCES OF THE PATRIOT CUBANS.

The Cuban army, which in November, 1868, was composed of 12,000 men, now numbers 40,000, under the following organization:

Commander-in-Chief.....General Manuel Quesada.

STAFF.

Chief.....General Thomas Jordan.
Chief of Artillery.....Major Beauvilliers.
Brigadier-Major of Orders.....Bernabé Varona.
Sanitary Department.....Adolfo Varona.

First Division—Army of Camaguey.

Major-General.....Ignacio Agramonte.
First Brigade.....Colonel Miguel Bosse.
Second " .....General Francisco Castillo.
Third " .....Colonel Cornelio Porro.
Fourth " ..... " Lope Recio.
Fifth " ..... " Manuel Valdes Urra.
Sixth " ..... " Manuel Agramonte.
First Battalion..... " Pedro Recio.
Second " ..... " José Lino Coca.
Third " ..... " Rafael Bobadilla.

Second Division—Army of Oriente.

Major-General.....Francisco Aguilera.
First Brigade.....General Donato Marmol.
Second " ..... " Luis Marcano.
Third " ..... " Julio Peralta.

Third Division—Army of Las Villas.

Major-General.....Federico Cabada.
First Brigade.....General C. Acosta.
Second " ..... " Salomé Hernandez.
Third " ..... " Adolfo Cabada.

SUPPLIES OF ARMS FOR THE CUBANS.

The want of arms, severely felt by the patriots at the commencement of their struggle, has been supplied from time to time by their friends abroad with the following shipments:

On the 26th of December, 1868, General Manuel Quesada landed at Guanaja with 83 men, and an armament composed of 2,700 muskets and corresponding ammunition.

On the 11th of May, 1869, Francisco Xavier Cisneros landed at the Bay of Nipe with 205 men, 2,500 rifles, 10 pieces of artillery, ammunition, clothing, shoes, etc.

On the 14th of May, Colonel Rafael Quesada went into the port of Nuevas-Grandes in the steamer Salvador, purchased by and belonging to the Cuban Republic, with 129 men, one cannon, 900 rifles, and other war stores.

On the 20th of June, Antonio Jimenez landed at Baitiquirí, from the schooner Grapeshot, with 30 men, 600 rifles and ammunition.

In October, an expedition from Jamaica reached Cuba safely, with some hundred guns, powder, medicines, etc.

About 2,000 more guns have been introduced in other small lots.

LOSSES OF THE SPANIARDS.

General Buceta, in a letter published in the *Diario de la Marina of Havana*, on the 24th of June, stated that all the official dispatches written to the Government by the officers of the army, in which they claimed that the soldiers of Spain come out triumphant and unhurt from every action, were false. However, *El Cronista*, a paper in the interest of the Spanish Government, published in New York, confessed, a few months ago, that out of the 26,000 men sent out to Cuba from Spain, only 10,000 remained.

IV.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE REPUBLIC.

During the first month of the war, a provisional government was organized at Bayamo, with Carlos Manuel Cespedes at its head, who, on the 30th of October, 1868, published a manifesto, declaring that he would not impose his government on the people of the Island, and that he was ready to submit to whatever the majority of its inhabitants decided, as soon as they could freely assemble to make use of their right of self-government.

On the 10th of April, 1869, a convention met at Guaimaro, presided over by Cespedes, and composed of Miguel Gutierrez, Eduardo Machado, Antonio Lorda, Tranquilino Valdes, and Arcadio Garcia, representatives from Villaclara; Honorato Castillo, representative from Sancti-Spiritu; José Maria Izaguirre, for Jiguaní; Antonio Alcalá and Jesus Rodriguez, for Holguin; Salvador Cisneros, Francisco Sanchez, Ignacio Agramonte Loynás, Miguel Betancourt Guerra, and Antonio Zambrana, for Camaguey. A draft of a Constitution was laid before this body, which was discussed and amended until it was finally adopted, as follows:

Article I.

The Legislative power shall be vested in a House of Representatives.

Article II.

To this body shall be delegated an equal representation from each of the four States into which the Island of Cuba shall be divided.

ARTICLE III.

These States are *Oriente*, *Camaguey*, *Las Villas*, and *Occidente.*

ARTICLE IV.

No one shall be eligible as Representative of any of these States except a citizen of the Republic, who is upward of twenty years of age.

ARTICLE V.

No Representative of any State shall hold any other official position during his representative term.

ARTICLE VI.

Whenever a vacancy occurs in the representation of any State, the Executive thereof shall have power to fill such vacancy until the ensuing election.

ARTICLE VII.

The House of Representatives shall elect a President of the Republic, a General-in-Chief of its Armies, a President of the Congress, and other executive officers. The General-in-Chief shall be subordinate to the Executive, and shall render him an account of the performance of his duties.

ARTICLE VIII.

The President of the Republic, the General-in-Chief, and the Members of the House of Representatives are amenable to charges which may be made by any citizen to the House of Representatives, who shall proceed to examine into the charges preferred; and if in their judgment it be necessary, the case of the accused shall be submitted to the Judiciary.

ARTICLE IX.

The House of Representatives shall have full power to dismiss from office any functionary whom they have appointed.

Article X.

The Legislative Acts and decisions of the House of Representatives, in order to be valid and binding, must have the sanction of the President of the Republic.

Article XI.

If the President fail to approve the Acts and decisions of the House, he shall, without delay, return the same with his objections thereto, for the reconsideration of that Body.

Article XII.

Within ten days after their reception, the President shall return all Bills, Resolutions, and Enactments which may be sent to him by the House for his approval, with his sanction thereof, or with his objections thereto.

Article XIII.

Upon the passage of any Act, Bill, or Resolution, after a reconsideration thereof by the House, it shall be sanctioned by the President.

Article XIV.

The House of Representatives shall legislate upon Taxation, Public Loans, and Ratification of Treaties; and shall have power to declare and conclude War, to authorize the President to issue Letters of Marque, to raise Troops and provide for their support, to organize and maintain a Navy, and to regulate reprisals as to the public enemy.

Article XV.

The House of Representatives shall remain in permanent session from the time of the ratification of this fundamental law by the People, until the termination of the war with Spain.

Article XVI.

The Executive Power shall be vested in the President of the Republic.

Article XVII.

No one shall be eligible to the Presidency, who is not a native of the Republic, and over thirty years of age.

Article XVIII.

All treaties made by the President may be ratified by the House of Representatives.

Article XIX.

The President shall have power to appoint Ambassadors, Ministers-plenipotentiary, and Consuls of the Republic, to foreign countries.

Article XX.

The President shall treat with Ambassadors, and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed. He shall also issue official commissions to all the functionaries of the Republic.

Article XXI.

The President shall propose the names for the members of his Cabinet to the House of Representatives for its approval.

Article XXII.

The Judiciary shall form an independent, co-ordinate department of the Government, under the organization of a special law.

Article XXIII.

Voters are required to possess the same qualifications as to age and citizenship as the Members of the House of Representatives.

Article XXIV.

All the inhabitants of the Republic of Cuba are absolutely *free.*

ARTICLE XXV.

All the citizens are considered as soldiers of the Liberating Army.

ARTICLE XXVI.

The Republic shall not bestow dignities, titles, nor special privileges.

ARTICLE XXVII.

The citizens of the Republic shall not accept honors nor titles from foreign countries.

XXVIII.

The House of Representatives shall not abridge the *Freedom ion*, nor of the *Press*, nor of *Public Meetings*, nor of *Education*, nor of *Petition*, nor any inalienable *Right of the Peo*

ARTICLE XXIX.

This Constitution can be amended only by the unanimous concurrence of the House of Representatives.

On the following day (the 11th), the Assembly proceeded to elect their officers, and the following were chosen:

President	Salvador Cisneros.
Secretaries	Ignacio Agramonte Loynaz. Antonio Zambrana.
Vice-Secretaries	Miguel Betancourt. Eduardo Machado.

The House then, in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution, appointed Carlos Manuel Cespedes President of the Republic, and Manuel Quesada Commander-in-Chief of the Army. These officers entered upon the discharge of their duties on the 12th.

At a later date several Representatives took their seats in the House: Jorge Milanes, for the district of Manzanillo; Manuel

Gomez Silva, for Camaguey; Manuel Gomez Peña, for Guantanamo; Tomas Estrada, for Cobre; Pio Posada, for Santiago de Cuba; Fernando Fornaris, for Bayamo; and Pedro Agüero, for Las Tunas.

The first sessions of this Assembly were held at Guaimaro; afterward they have been held at Cascorro and Sibanicu.

Guaimaro is a town of 3,965 inhabitants, with 496 houses. It is 55 miles from Puerto Principe, 30 from Nuevitas, and 36 from Las Tunas.

Cascorro and Sibanicu are two towns, situated in close proximity to one another. They have together a population of 5,000 inhabitants.

The Spaniards have never been able to take any of these towns, though they have always had large forces at Puerto Principe, Nuevitas, and Las Tunas, commanded by their best officers, among whom was Count Valmaseda.

ABOLITION OF SLAVERY.

In including within their programme the abolition of slavery, the Cubans have acted consistently with the whole tenor of all the petitions addressed to Spain at various periods. The most eminent writers and thinkers of Cuba—the men who by their teachings have prepared the way for the Revolution, such as Varela, Saco, Delmonte, Luz Caballero, and others, have been abolitionists, and have suffered persecution, imprisonment, and exile in consequence. During the civil war in this country, the Cubans distinguished themselves from the Spanish residents of the Island by their open sympathies with the cause of the Union, and their aversion to the principles proclaimed by the Southern confederacy, involving as they did the maintenance of slavery.

El Siglo, a Havana paper that represented the liberals of the Cuban party, used to applaud with enthusiasm the triumphs of the Federal army, and maintained with courage the doctrine that

the victory of the South would have been a fatal blow to the progress of humanity. And further, the commissioners sent to Madrid in 1868 to propose the reforms demanded by the people in their political and social institutions, pronounced almost unanimously in favor of the gradual emancipation of slaves. Accordingly, one of the first acts of Carlos Manuel Cespedes, in October, 1868, was to proclaim the abolition of slavery. On the 24th of February following, the Assembly of Camaguey decreed the same in an absolute and unconditional manner.

The Constitution of the Republic declares in its 24th article, that "all the inhabitants of the Republic of Cuba are absolutely free."

JUDICIARY.

By the law enacted on the 6th of August, 1869, the Administration of Justice is vested:

First—In a Supreme Court.

Second—In Criminal Judges.

Third—In Civil Judges.

Fourth—In Prefects and Sub-Prefects.

Fifth—In Courts-Martial.

The Supreme Court is composed of a president, two judges, and a judge advocate.

Each State of the Republic is divided into various judicial districts, each with a civil judge, a criminal judge, and an attorney for the Commonwealth.

Among other facts which denote the impartiality with which these courts administer justice, we will cite the case of a Cuban named Borjes, who was tried by them, and condemned to death for having murdered a Spaniard named Manuel Colza, a native of Santander.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION.

In every State there is a civil governor. The States are divided into districts, each of which is governed by a lieutenant-

govenor, and these districts subdivided into prefectships and sub-prefectships. All these functionaries are elected by the people.

The best proof that this organization is working and in force, has just been afforded by the Spanish Government itself, which published in the Havana papers a telegram dated the 8th of December last, in which the Spanish Commander-General of Cinco Villas reports to the Captain-General that the prefect of Santa-Clara, Don Agustin Hernandez, had presented himself to him.

The civil governor, elected by the Cubans for the State of Las Villas, is Joaquin Morales. For the State of Camaguey, Carlos Loret de Mola was appointed in May, ad interim. On the 25th of September, Manuel Ramon Silva was elected in his place.

LAWS PASSED BY CONGRESS.

11th *May*, 1869—Law granting amnesty to all political prisoners not sentenced.

4th *June*, 1869—Law prescribing the requisites for marriages and authorizing.

7th *June*, 1869—Law declaring the commerce of the Republic free with all nations.

June 15, 1869.—Law authorizing the emission of $2,000,700 legal tender paper money, the Republic promising to redeem it for specie at par as soon as circumstances should permit. In anticipation of this enactment, the New York Junta had, at the request of President Cespedes, caused to be engraved in this city, and sent out to Cuba, the currency required.

July 9, 1869.—Law organizing the different departments of the army, and ordaining that every citizen between the ages of 18 and 50 should be obliged to bear arms.

August 6, 1869.—Law regulating the administration of justice as aforesaid.

August 7, 1869.—Law describing the powers of the adminis-

tration and the functions of the Secretaries of State, tog ether with those of other civil officers.

RECOGNITION BY FOREIGN POWERS.

Many of the Spanish-American Republics have hastened to express their sympathies in favor of their new-born sister.

The Mexican Congress authorized President Juarez to recognize the Cubans as belligerents, and gave orders that the Cuban flag should be admitted in the ports of that nation.

Cuban belligerency was acknowledged by Chili on the 30th of April, by Peru on the 13th of May, and by Bolivia on the 10th of June.

Peru recognized her independence on the 13th of June.

V.

PRESENT STATE OF THE REVOLUTION.

A few evidences among many that we could furnish, will tend to show the actual strength of the revolution:

On the 11th day of October last, the *Voz de Cuba*, a Spanish paper published in Havana, said in a leading article: "Is it possible that in Guaimaro, four days' journey from Havana—two by sea, and two by land—there should have existed for the last eight months a Government of traitors; that they should have been holding sessions, issuing decrees, publishing papers, and exercising all the rights of sovereignty?"

The world has never heard since then of the capture of Cespedes, of the dissolution of the Cuban Congress, or even of the capture of Guaimaro. On the contrary, on the 25th of December, the telegraph informed us that General Puello had left Nuevitas with 3,000 well-armed men, in the direction of Sibanicu and Guaimaro, determined now to take these towns.

By order of Captain-General Caballero de Rodas, the "Official Gazette of Havana" published, on the 19th of October last, for general intelligence, as he expressed it, the affidavit of an insurgent who had surrendered to the Spaniards, and who, from having served as a clerk with several prominent Cuban leaders, had been in a position to acquire information about the insurrection.

This witness declares the existence of a Republican Government, with C. M. Cespedes as President, Francisco V. Aguilera as Minister of War, etc.; that Congress was then in recess, and that on the 25th of September, elections were to be held at Camaguey. José Ramon Boza and Eduardo Agramonte were candidates for Representatives to Congress, and Manuel Ramon Silva for Governor of the State; that Manuel Quesada was General-in-

Chief; Ignacio Agramonte, Major-General in the district of Camaguey; Bernabe Varona, Major-General of Orders; Beauvilliers, Chief of Artillery. He mentions, besides these names, those of thirty-seven brigadier-generals, colonels and majors, among whom we notice Colonel Benitez, a Spaniard; that there is no uniformity in the arms of the troops, but that they have many Spencer and Remington rifles; that some of the Spanish officers who are prisoners of war are instructing the Cuban troops; that the dress of General Quesada is a black or grey suit, white shirt, grey hat, with the Cuban cockade and the initials "V. C. L." in gold letters, and a sword with a gold hilt in the form of an eagle; that the staff of Quesada wear red flannel shirts, patent leather boots, Panama hats, and cockades with the letters "V. C. L." in silver; his escort wear blue flannel shirts, white or black pantaloons, and Panama hat.

All are armed with Spencer rifles, and have good horses and equipments; that the Sanitary Department is in charge of Adolfo Varona and other physicians; that the work goes on, on the farms, as usual, especially at Gúaimaro and Sibanicú, for which reason provisions are plentiful, and that four leagues from the city of Puerto Principe there are a great many fat cattle and pigs, from which the Cubans cannot make salt meat for want of salt; that in the woods there are many retreats built with habitations for families, when they have to fly from the villages; that the most respectable families of Puerto Principe reside at Caunao, Braya, and other places, or on their estates; that there is a constant communication and correspondence between the towns and the country, through the medium of men, women, and children; that there is besides a regular postal service, and he mentions the names of one of the mail carriers whom he knew, namely, Luis Agüero; and finally, that in order to keep up the spirit of sympathizers, two Cuban papers, entitled *El Cubano Libre* and *El Mambí*, were distributed weekly with great regularity in the city of Puerto Principe itself.

Captain-General De Rodas, under date of the 8th of December last, issued a decree establishing the telegraph money service, when he used these words: "On account of the political situation and the damage caused by the insurrection, the stations where this service can be carried on are, for the present, limited to the following: Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Pinar del Rio, Cárdenas, Cienfuegos, Sagüa La Grande, Guanajay, San Antonio, Colon, Bemba, Remedios, San Cristobal, San Diego, and Consolacion del Sur." It will be seen by reference to the map that the places mentioned are all situated on the Western half of the Island, but the real extent of Spanish rule is still less.

The list of Cubans whose property has been confiscated by the Government is now many thousands, and the value of their property is many millions of dollars. Not less considerable is the number of individuals of all classes of society who have been banished without trial. It is but lately—on the 24th of December last—that upward of fifty of the most respectable and wealthy citizens of Havana received the order to embark for Spain on twenty-four hours' notice. Many others await the same fate. Is this revolution, then, subdued? Is it confined to a few disorderly men?

Spain has sent to Cuba, within the last three months, over 17,000 men, and she continues to send more. She has trebled her navy on that ocean; she has taken thirty gun-boats from New York; she has collected together an immense mass of war supplies. All these are preparations for a winter campaign, for during the summer her army and her resources have almost disappeared. Have such formidable armaments ever been made against a contemptible enemy, or against a conquered foe?